GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:536
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
ADMISSION TO MEDICAL COLLEGES IN INDIA AND ABROAD
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether internship was not compulsory for the 1969-91 batches (that is till 1997 when MCI was sending students to Soviet Union under scholarship scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the circumstances that have compelled MCI to impose Rotary Internship during 1998;

(d) whether upto 2001 there was no screening test for sending students to Soviet Union; and

(e) if so, the reasons for introducing Screening test during 2002 and the retrospective effect on Medical Indian student from Russia and CIS countries who joined courses in 1996-97 to 2000-2001?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Internship has been compulsory in respect of all students. In the initial stages when students were sponsored for under-graduate medical education in medical institutions in the erstwhile U.S.S.R., internship was permitted during the 6th year of the clinical course whereby 9 months of intership was done in India and after obtaining the degree from the Soviet medical institutions a further period of 3 months internship was to be done by the students before grant of permanent registration. Later as it was observed that the clinical course in erstwhile U.S.S.R. institutions was of 6 years duration, it was decided that students after obtaining MD degree from those institutions shall undergo one year internship in India provided they have completed one year preparatory and 6 years clinical training before obtaining such MD degree.

(d) to (e) The amendment to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for holding Screening Test was made in September, 2001 and effect to this amendment was given by the relevant regulations which have come into effect from 15th March, 2002 whereby students obtaining foreign medical qualifications and returning to India after 15th March, 2002 or who have already come to India and have applied to MCI on or after 15th March, 2001 for provisional registration to do the one year internship in India have to appear in the Screening test either for provisional registration or permanent registration, as the case may be. No retrospective effect has been given to the regulations but only students who are yet to obtain either provisional or permanent certificate, as the case may be, after obtaining foreign medical qualification are required to sit for the Screening test. The Hon`ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 8th March, 2002, while allowing certain relaxations for registration of Indian citizens who have obtained medical degrees from abroad and had returned to India prior to 15th March, 2001, have taken note of the amendment to the IMC Act and have approved the effect of the regulations from 15th March, 2002 in respect of all other students.